

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Summary: April 4, 2018

Members Present: Richard Sherrill (co-chair)
Dan Coates
Marta Noe
Jackie Seneschal

Members Absent: Carol Deibel (Chair)
James Karmel
Christina Presberry

Staff: Caitlin Merritt

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:13 PM.

Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Sherrill presided over the meeting in Ms. Deibel's absence.

Review and Approval: February 7, 2018 Meeting Summary

Ms. Seneschal moved to approve the meeting summary. It was seconded by Mr. Coates. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

CLG Legislation Update:

We are still waiting to send our legislation changes to County Council. Ms. Merritt does not have a date as to when it will be introduced, but anticipates it will be sometime in the summer or fall. Ms. Merritt reassured the Commission that other legislation changes have been delayed as well.

Joshua's Meadow Tax Credit Application Update:

Ms. Merritt has been in touch with the contractor. The materials are in, but the work has not yet started on the dormers.

This Place Matters Campaign

Ms. Merritt met with Cindy Mumby, Director of Governmental and Community Relations, about the "This Place Matters" campaign to celebrate Historic Preservation Month. She mentioned that they are going to adapt materials from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Staged photos will be taken

in May and posted on social media. A banner stand is being made that can be transported to different locations. There will be a download on the county website for materials. Photos can also be emailed to Ms. Merritt for posting on the County's social media outlets.

Mr. Sherrill suggested sending the information to community groups, including the Harford Land Trust.

Historic Landmark Inspections:

Ms. Merritt intends to start inspections sometime this summer or fall. The master plan, Harford Next, calls for annual inspections of landmarks. Ms. Merritt said she suggested making them biennial inspections and focusing on Historic Landmarks that haven't had any recent COA or Tax Credit applications.

Mr. Coates brought up the old farmhouse at 115 Robin Hood Road (actually off of Titan Terrace Road) which is occupied but is structurally not safe. Mr. Coates will forward a photo to Ms. Merritt and Mr. Sherrill (for the historical society). Ms. Merritt will check to see if it is on the Maryland Inventory, but the property is not a county landmark. She said that it would be a zoning issue and possibly a health department issue if the structure is unsafe.

New Business

Scenic & Historic Byways Program Introduction:

Ms. Merritt shared with the Commission that she is working on a Scenic Byways program for the County. It will be based on the Maryland Byways program, which helps with tourism. The designation would carry no restrictions and would be an honorary designation. It can also lead to guidelines for DPW projects on these byways. We have three local scenic byways currently. A nomination form will be developed. Ms. Merritt mentioned that rural roads in the Deer Creek Legacy Areas as potential candidates. Mr. Coates expressed support for this. Ms. Seneschal suggested routes through Rocks State Park as also being candidates.

Mr. Sherrill suggested signage that contains the silhouette of a map of Harford County. The draft of the report is underway with a June deadline. Legislation would then have to be drafted to go to the county council for approval. More roads for nomination were suggested.

Historic Landmark – Old Brick Baptist Church on Baldwin Mill Road:

Ms. Merritt was contacted by a trustee for the landmark. The church is thinking of closing because of declining membership. Questions were asked about cemetery maintenance, which is the owner's responsibility. The trustee had questions about the property's ownership. Ms. Merritt said she was researching the County's files. Ms. Merritt will get back to her with any information she finds. In addition, she mentioned that she'll provide information about techniques for mothballing a historic building if the church is to be closed. It was made a landmark in 1992.

Other Business

Mr. Coates mentioned that he attended a cemetery preservation workshop conducted by Robert Mosko at Bulle Rock.

Mr. Sherrill reported that the Historical Society has lost the last of the people that did research of cemetery records, but someone is picking it up.

Ms. Merritt mentioned that SHA has contacted jurisdictions to gather information to create a cemetery inventory. They want to inventory cemeteries within state highway right-of-ways. Mr. Coates suggested that these cemeteries should be placed on the Maryland Register. Ms. Merritt responded that some are.

Discussion turned to the burials on the Center for the Arts property. Ms. Merritt mentioned that she is trying to go through the correct channels to determine the relationship the Center for the Arts has with the county, in order to make contact. County planners have been on the site. No building plans have been approved for the property. Trustees for the property have been on site with Mr. Coates.

Housekeeping: HPC Information Binder additions and updates were distributed to Commission members, including chapter 9 (which pertains to the Board), the Historic Landmarks Code, and the 2017 Zoning Map.

Historic Landmark file organization: Files are being reviewed for Inventory Forms, Landmark Nomination Forms and Photographs.

Ms. Merritt mentioned that one possible two commission seats may become open as James Karmel has indicated that he intends to resign and Christina Presberry has missed three consecutive meetings (which according to the county code is grounds for dismissal). It should be noted that all Commission terms end in December 2018. Ms. Merritt mentioned that she has an HPC interest form that needs to be filled out in order to make sure a potential new Commission member is qualified, especially for CLG certification. Ms. Merritt suggested that commission members bring their recommendations for potential new members to the next meeting.

Mr. Coates announced that the dedication for the Ice House at Harford Glen is Thursday, April 5.

Ms. Seneschal announced that The Harford Heritage and Music Festival will be June 9th at the Highland School on Route 543. They are looking for sponsors as well as organizations/groups that would like to have a table at the event.

Adjourn

Mr. Coates moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Noe. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting at ended at 8:33 PM.